

pioneering treatment of low weight babies, babies with congenital birth defects, and babies from all over the region who require specialized treatment that is not readily available at other facilities.

Shaare Zedek's program for ill newborns has built bridges between Israel and her Arab neighbors. Through this program, Muslims, Christians, and Jews have been able to transcend their differences in the interest of saving babies precariously on the border between life and death.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sharon Berkowitz for all of her charitable work, and especially her work with Shaare Zedek's Neonatology Department. The survival of the children treated there is often dependent upon her efforts and those of other humanitarian supporters of the neonatology program. I wish her many years of good health and success in all of her future endeavors.

"I DON'T CARE WHAT IT DOES—I LIKE THE CONCEPT"—WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE MAJORITY LEADER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following column by Rick Horowitz from the Palm Beach Post of September 29, 1995, describing the House majority leader's comments on the flat tax proposal.

According to the columnist, the gentleman from Texas admitted that his taxes as a Member of Congress would be lower under his flat tax than under current law, but that personal gain was not his motivation in proposing a flat tax:

Rep. Armey insisted that personal gain wasn't the motivation for his plan; he truly didn't know who would do better or who would do worse, or even whether the plan was revenue-neutral or would lead to major funding gaps. In fact—well, these are the words he used:

I don't care what it does—I like the concept.

Mr. Speaker, that pretty much sums up the Republican agenda this year. I don't know what it does, but it is a new idea and we like the concept. You can see it in the medical savings account idea in the Medicare Reconciliation bill—which CBO insists will cost the program money, not save money like the ideologies of the right proclaim. You can see it in the Members who've introduced bills to permit more CFCs, because most of the world's scientists are probably wrong when they say CFCs are destroying the ozone layer. You can see it in the family cap in the welfare bill, because teenagers will quit having sex if you starve the babies they have.

Concepts are wonderful, Mr. Speaker. Too bad the real world awaits.

[From the Palm Beach Post, Sept. 29, 1995]

THE GOP REVOLUTION IN A NUTSHELL

(By Rick Horowitz)

Such a reasonable question—two questions, really. And such an interesting reply.

At last week's annual convention of the National Conference of Editorial Writers in

San Antonio, it was conversation pretty much nonstop, with the occasional break for food and beverage, or to hear from some outside force with something to say: the majority leader of the House of Representatives for instance.

Dick Armey came home to Texas to share a meal, tell a few jokes, make a few points. He brought the latest news from Washington, where the dismantling of the welfare state was proceeding with vigor.

Rep. Armey methodically set out the accomplishments of the Republican Congress—the hardest-working, most effective, most revolutionary Congress in memory, he claimed—and the outlook for the closing days of the session.

He fired the requisite shots across the already listing Democratic bow. He talked philosophy. How the market, freed from government interference, can perform miracles. How, beyond a few insignificant exceptions, what a person earns in life squares almost exactly with how hard a person has worked. How, given their respective contributions to society, the high school football coach deserves to be paid more than the high school English teacher.

And he pushed one of his pet ideas: the "flat tax." Why should Taxpayer X and Taxpayer Y be treated differently by the IRS just because they earn different incomes? Let everyone pay the same rate—17 percent of wages, salaries and pensions, in Rep. Armey's version. People could figure their taxes in minutes. They could file their returns on postcards. What could be wrong with that?

Then came the post-speech Q&A—a clarification, here, a prediction there—and then one David Bowman was standing at an audience microphone. Mr. Bowman, the editorial-page editor of the Huntsville (Ala.) News, wondered if Rep. Armey might possibly tell the crowd how much he paid in taxes under the current laws. Rep. Armey, momentarily flustered, offered up an estimate.

Mr. Bowman then asked Rep. Armey whether he'd be paying more or less than that under his flat-tax proposal. Rep. Armey said he didn't know.

Was there a pocket calculator in the house? (Nope.) Could anybody divide his congressional salary by 17 percent? Finally, he grabbed a pen and did some quick math himself, right there on his speech text. And what do you know? Under the flat tax, his taxes would go down plenty—what a pleasant surprise!

As the giggles spread in the cheap seats, Rep. Armey insisted that personal gain wasn't the motivation for his plan; he truly didn't know who would do better and who would do worse, or even whether the plan was revenue-neutral or would lead to major funding gaps. In fact—well, these are the words he used:

"I don't care what it does—I like the concept."

Ladies and gentlemen, the Republican revolution in a nutshell. Concepts. Theories. A straight line on a piece of graph paper. Neat. Clean. Simple. Sterile.

In the real world—the messy, sloppy real world—"what it does" matters. "What it does" affects actual human beings, whether "it" is a new tax system or massive welfare reform, the overhaul of Medicare or the dismantling of environmental protections. Somebody might get hurt out here. Somebody might want to pay attention to that.

"I don't care what it does," says the majority leader of the House of Representatives. "I like the concept."

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. RUTH WOOD

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 1995*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today, to recognize a valued member of my staff who will be retiring this year. Mrs. Ruth Wood has provided me with dedicated service for over 4 years. Mrs. Wood was an instrumental member of my election team in my first campaign for congress in 1992. After taking office in 1993, Mrs. Wood joined my congressional staff as a receptionist and as my military academy liaison. Mrs. Wood, who had previously served former Representative Jack Buechner, has provided my office with invaluable experience and professionalism.

Her work on the selection process of academy applicants has been outstanding. Her expertise in this area is unquestionable. Under her direction, 15 young people from my district received acceptance offers from the military academies in 1995. During her service with Representative Buechner, she had the distinction one year of placing more nominees in the service academies than any other House office. Her leadership in this area will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Wood has also distinguished herself with a lifelong commitment of service to the Republican Party, her efforts to assist numerous local, State, and national candidates, stands as a testament to her unselfish dedication to promote leaders to public office which exemplify the qualities and values of our great party.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize her service to this institution, her country, and her community. I ask that we all join to offer our gratitude to Mrs. Ruth Wood for her many years of dedicated service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO BRYAN BALDWIN

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 1995*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Bryan Baldwin.

On Tuesday, October 24, 1995, Mr. Baldwin will be honored at the annual conference of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) as the 1995 Peter J. Salmon National Blind Employee of the Year.

After nine years at the San Antonio Lighthouse, Mr. Baldwin, who has been blind since birth, teaches computer skills to the visually impaired, enabling them to obtain more technologically advanced jobs. He exemplifies self-determination, demonstrated by remarkable job growth and commitment to help other live independently.

After high school, Baldwin worked in a plant nursery. Six years later, he was still earning minimum wage and had no benefits. Married and ready to start a family, Baldwin decided to seek a higher-paying job with more benefits that would better use his education and skills. Baldwin applied for an assembler's position at the San Antonio Lighthouse and was hired in 1985. He has progressed from general assembler to machine operator to quality assurance